

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 04327 251815Z
ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT SHUM PGOV CI
SUBJECT: GOC APPROVES PUBLICATION OF "HOY"

REF: A) SANTIAGO 2028, B) SANTIAGO 1489, C) SANTIAGO 885

1. GOC APPROVED UNDER ITS INTERNAL SECURITY DECREE
PUBLICATION OF NEW WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE "HOY" TO BE
EDITED BY CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT EMILIO FILIPPE. THE MAGAZINE WILL
APPEAR ON JUNE 1. THE GOC JUSTIFIED LONG DELAY BY SAYING
IT HAD TO SATISFY ITSELF THAT NO "IMPROPER FOREIGN
ELEMENTS" OR POLITICAL PARTIES WOULD CONTROL THE
MAGAZINE. TO THIS END THE GOC SAID IT CONDUCTED A
CAREFUL AND IN-DEPTH STUDY OF THE SOURCE OF FINANC-
ING FOR THE MAGAZINE. ALSO, THE GOC WAS RELYING
UPON "HOY'S" STATED INTENT TO OFFER "SERIOUS, TRUTHFUL
AND NON-PARTISAN JOURNALISM". THE GOC ADDED THAT
ITS APPROVAL REAFFIRMED ITS RESPECT FOR FREEDOM
OF EXPRESSION AND INFORMATION SO LONG AS IT CONFORM-
ITY WITH THE LIMITS IMPOSED BY NATIONAL SECURITY.

2. AS DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL, FILIPPI RESIGNED AS
EDITOR OF THE FORMER CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT-ORIENTED
PUBLICATION "ERCILLA" AFTER IT BECAME CLEAR THAT HE
COULD NOT WORK WITH THE NEW CONSERVATIVE OWNERS;
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PAGE 02 SANTIA 04327 251815Z

VIRTUALLY THE ENTIRE NEWSTAFF QUIT WITH HIM. ON
JANUARY 28, FILIPPI ANNOUNCED THE FORMATION OF
"HOY", TO BE PUBLISHED IN MARCH -- EARLY APRIL.
PREPARATIONS WERE SET BACK WHEN THE GOVERNMENT
ISSUED AN ADMINISTRATIVE DECREE (BANDO 107) MARCH 11
REQUIRING ALL NEW PUBLICATIONS TO BE APPROVED IN
ADVANCE BY THE NATIONAL SOCIAL COMMUNICATION OFFICE

OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PRESIDENCY. THIS OFFICE WAS OSTENSIBLY GIVEN A FREE HAND IN DETERMINING WHETHER A PUBLICATION WOULD BE ALLOWED, BUT THE DECISION CERTAINLY WAS MADE MUCH HIGHER IN THE GOVERNMENT.

3. COMMENT: THE LONG-EXPECTED APPROVAL FOR "HOY'S" PUBLICATION PROBABLY MARKS THE LAST CHAPTER IN PINOCHET'S RETRENCHMENT FROM HIS EARLY MARCH OUTBURST AGAINST DEMOCRATIC DISSENTERS. AT THAT TIME HE DISSOLVED THE RECESSED, NON-MARXIST POLITICAL PARTIES AND HAD BANDO 107 ISSUED. THESE DECISIONS GENERATED AN OUTCRY FROM INFLUENTIAL CIVILIAN SUPPORT SECTORS AND DISTURBED SOME WITHIN THE MILITARY WHICH LED PINOCHET TO A SERIES OF CONCILIATORY STEPS: HIS MARCH 18 SPEECH, WAFFLING ON BANDO 107'S REQUIREMENT FOR PRIOR APPROVAL ON IMPORTED PRINTED MATTER, AND NOW, RELUCTANCE TO EMPLOY BANDO 107'S PRIOR CENSORSHIP AUTHORITY.

4. THE GOVERNMENT MUST REALIZE THAT ITS CONCEPT OF "SERIOUS, TRUTHFUL AND NON-PARTISAN JOURNALISM" DIFFERS FROM GOOD CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT EMILIO FILIPPI'S VERSION. IT IS PROBABLY ONLY A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL FILIPPI AND HIS TEAM CLASH WITH THE MONITORS OF CHILEAN NATIONAL SECURITY WITH PREDICTABLE RESULTS. SHOULD "HOY'S" ANTI-GOVERNMENT BIAS BECOME MANIFEST AND GOC THEN SHUT IT DOWN, MANY CONSERVATIVES, WHO FIND PRIOR CENSORSHIP ABHORRENT, WOULD NOT OBJECT.

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PAGE 03 SANTIA 04327 251815Z

5. WE SEE IN THIS PATTERN OF EVENTS EVIDENCE THAT PINOCHET WILL BACK PEDAL IN ORDER TO PRESERVE KEY SUPPORT BASES.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CLANDESTINE PUBLICATIONS, MAGAZINES, POLITICAL CONCESSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Format: TEL
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770519/aaaaaqcq.tel
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Litigation Codes:
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